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298

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Resistance and Unrest

DATE DISTR.

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PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC							
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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 26, Nov. 1954

SUBJECT Resistance and Unrest

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Possible Instances

1. [] no evidence of organized resistance groups in Czechoslovak; however, the following incidents were recalled: 25X1

a. In June 1954, [] fires on Velky Lopenik Mountain in the White Carpathians near the Moravian-Slovakian border, about 70 km. southwest of Prerov (N 49-27, E 17-27). Others who saw the fires assumed they were signals set up by partisan groups for parachutists. [] many persons believed partisan groups were hiding in the Carpathian Mountains [] 25X1

b. In the Carpathian area, police established roadblocks at various times and checked people for documents. Normally, such checks were conducted only in territory along the border. Many considered these checks indirect proof of the existence of partisans. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

Aims

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2. [] the chief aim of partisan groups was to broadcast to the West and to obtain production figures of Czechoslovak industries. [] the aim of partisan groups was not of a long-range nature but was confined to the transmission of accurate information to the West []

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Extent of Operations

3. [] partisan operations were limited and conducted on a small scale by small groups. []

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Sabotage Activities

4. [] one incident of sabotage when railroad workers damaged locomotives in order to tie up the railroad yards in Prerov.

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Probable Scope and Success

5. The Czechoslovak people thought of the possible success of current resistance operations, without massive external aid, only in terms of small-scale results. They did not expect any major changes or upheavals in government. They apparently believed that only outside help could bring about large-scale results.

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Membership

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6. [] no precise data on partisans. [] most of them were adult males. [] there were no women partisans. [] most partisans were Czechs that had fled to the West at an earlier date and then returned to wage a fight for the eventual liberation of Czechoslovakia.

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Spontaneous Group Activities and Unrest

9. In June 1953 at the rail center of Prerov, workers struck from two to three days. [] a strike at the Meopta Optical Equipment Plant in Prerov, when all workers went on strike; they did nothing but mill around in the factory yards. The factory militia kept the workers from leaving the premises and demonstrating. The factory militia was made up of regular workers who, when needed, were alerted and called to quell unrest. []

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SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

[redacted] the workers had killed one of the factory militia who attempted to harangue them into resuming work. 25X1

10. [redacted] student demonstrations in Brno in 1946 during the first money reform. Other demonstrations, mainly by students of the Technical University, occurred after 1948. The reason for such demonstrations was that the government had originally intended to build a monument to Jan Masaryk on the main square opposite a finished Soviet memorial, but never got beyond placing the cornerstone of Masaryk's monument. All demonstrating students were arrested. [redacted] a student demonstration that occurred on 10 March 1948, protesting the government's claim that Masaryk had committed suicide. 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Regime's Effect on Youth

12. [redacted] There were very few Communist sympathizers among the youth, mainly because young Czechoslovaks felt that Communism in Czechoslovakia aimed to further the cause of the USSR rather than any Czechoslovak cause. Anti-Communist feelings were not so much inspired by positive ideals as by the fact that foreigners, not Czechoslovaks, would reap the benefits and profits under the Communist régime. 25X1

Popular Attitude Toward the Régime

13. People were dissatisfied with the low standard of merchandise and were convinced that all merchandise of good quality was exported mainly to the USSR. At times exported goods were returned by the buyer to Czechoslovakia because of minor defects and were then resold on the domestic market. The Czechoslovaks were very anxious to buy these rejected export goods because they knew that they were better than goods normally sold on the domestic market. 25X1

Financial Support of Resistance Groups

14. [redacted] most partisans were Czechs that originally fled to the West and later returned to Czechoslovakia. [redacted] The only support they might receive from within the country would be limited to food and minor supplies. 25X1

Trend of Communism

15. [redacted] Communism was losing ground in the country and that the Communist Party was losing members. 25X1

Resistance Potential of the Population

16. [redacted] 95% of the population would side with the West in the event of hostilities. Most members of the SNB were former members of the Czechoslovak rural police and the government could not completely count on them. [redacted] almost 100% of the population in Moravia and Slovakia would fight the régime, but in Bohemia possibly only 70% would do so. [redacted] 25X1

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25X1

- 4 -

[redacted] in Moravia and Slovakia popular complaints against the régime were common and were openly made in front of the SNB; these complaints consisted of high costs and poor quality of goods. [redacted] the most dissatisfied group and the first which would join the West would be the farmers. The second group would be the workers.

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Anti-Semitism

17. [redacted] no instances of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia.

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